



Bakersfield Voter

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BAKERSFIELD

JAN/FEB 2008

President's message

Happy New Year! Each New Year brings an opportunity for a fresh start as we set new goals. Take time to reflect back on the past year and think about what matter most as you plan for 2008.

As I mentioned in the last issue of the Voter, this is an important election year! The primary election is February 5. Are your registered to vote? Have you moved since the last election or changed your name? The League will register voters at several locations on January 21.

We are excited to announce the collaboration between the LWVB and the Kern County Election Department. We have united to increase both voter turnout at the polls and voter education. A public service announcement video will be produced to remind Kern County citizens to get out and vote and to direct television viewers to the League's *Smart Voter* website. This website is a great resource for information on candidates and issues on the ballot. The video will include archival footage of historical milestones and a message about the importance of exercising one's right to vote. The video will be aired on local television and cable stations to stimulate voter involvement prior to each election.

Did you know that the League shares a birthday with Valentines Day? It was 88 years ago that the League of Women Voters was formed to provide political education in the spirit of the suffrage movement. The League, with over 800 local units across the United States, is a powerful organization committed to educating and advocating on important issues. Throughout our history, we have responded to the civil rights crises, conservation of natural resources, voting rights act amendments, tax reform act, citizen education, and health care. We are proud to be your trusted organization as we continue to provide nonpartisan information on issues and candidate forums that are fair and objective. —Diane Williams

Calendar

January 8—Tuesday, 6:30 pm. LWVB Board meeting, Merced Center, 2000 K Street, Room UC-2.

January 12—Saturday, 9 am. LWVB Speakers' Bureau discusses ballot propositions for NAACP at St Peters Church, 510 E. Brundage.

January 16 —Wednesday, 5:45 pm. General dinner meeting at the Petroleum Club, 5060 California Avenue, 12th floor. Rick Iger, Chief Engineer for the Kern County Water Agency, will discuss "**Water 1A.**" Cost is \$22. Dinner reservations required; call the League Line.*

January 21—Monday, 6-8 pm. Voter registration at various locations around town. Call Terri Stanton to volunteer, 589-7314.

February 12—Tuesday, 6:30 pm. LWVB Board meeting, Merced Center, 2000 K Street, Room UC-2.

February 20—Wednesday, 5:45 pm. General dinner meeting at the Petroleum Club, 5060 California Avenue, 12th floor. Celebrate the League's 88th birthday by viewing the short film "Votes for Women" about the suffragette movement. Cost is \$22. Reservations required; call the League Line.*

**Reservations are required for dinner and luncheon meetings and special events. Please call the League Line, 634-3773, by Monday noon prior to the Wednesday event. No charge for attendance at program only. Thank you.*

Busy year for Voter Services

The LWVB will register voters for the February election on January 21 from 6 -8 pm at various locations. We need help with this effort. If you would like to work, please call Terri Stanton, 589-7314.

Terri Stanton, Lynne Rosenstein and Lois Watson attended a workshop in Los Angeles on the procedures of running a candidate forum. They will present a workshop for all interested League members and share what they learned. In this way, our League will have a larger number of trained facilitators able to conduct a greater number of forums. You will hear more about this later.

Additionally, we will register voters for the June and November elections as well as being available for Pro/Con presentations and candidate forums for interested groups. Again, watch for further information in future issues of the Voter. 2008 will be a busy year for us, and we will need all the volunteers we can get.—Terri Stanton

With THREE elections in 2008 , this is an especially demanding year.

More than ever, it is important to stay informed.

For current up-dated information, check the local, state, and national League of Women Voters' websites:

www.bakersfield.ca.lwvnet.org

www.ca.lwv.org

www.lwv.org

www.smartvoter.org

Celebrate the League 88th birthday with us

Join us as we celebrate the 88th birthday of the League of Women Voters at the general meeting on February 20. We will view "Votes for Women," a 20 minute film featuring a blend of archival photographs and live action with music from the Suffrage Movement. Jean Stapleton, Rue

McClanahan, Susan Ruttan, Kathy Najimy and others narrate this film from the National Women's History Project. A discussion of women's accomplishments since the ratification of the 19th Amendment will follow the film.

The program will begin at 5:45 pm at the Petroleum Club, 5060 California Avenue, on the 12th floor. The cost of the dinner is \$22. Reservations for dinner are required no later than noon Monday, February 18. Please call the League Line, 634-3773.

Exciting news about redistricting

The bad news is that after almost three years of negotiations with the legislature and good government groups across California, the League has sadly concluded that the legislature will not place a good redistricting reform measure on the ballot next year. The good news is that after careful consideration, the LWVC board has enthusiastically decided to support the **Voters FIRST** redistricting ballot.

Redistricting information can be found on the Web at <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/redistrict/>. So it's all hands on deck for a grassroots campaign to bring this to the ballot. Let's give voters a chance to decide if they want to put an end to the inherent conflict of interest in the current system, so that they can choose their legislators and not the other way round. This is where the League shines: doing the hands-on work that makes democracy work in our communities.

We need volunteers—lots of volunteers—who will make a difference. The first phase is signature gathering. If you are interested in joining this effort, call Advocacy Assistant Maggie Young, 916/442-7215, or e-mail her at myoung@lwvc.org. Sign on for an exciting experience in making democracy work.—Lois Chaney

League of Women Voters of Bakersfield

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